



#04-027

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Caltrans to Participate in "Keep California Beautiful" Program

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 2 Adopt-A-Highway program will participate in the Keep California Beautiful, 2004 campaign during the months of March, April and May. These months coincide with National Great American Cleanup events.

In District 2 there are 356 Adoption groups which do litter pick up, wildflower plantings, vegetation control, tree plantings and clean Park-N-Ride areas. These groups take care of more than 1250 miles of State roadway in the eight counties within District 2. There are currently 482 miles of roadway available for adoption in the district.

Caltrans launched the Adopt-A-Highway Program in October of 1989 and today there are more than 4,200 adoptions statewide, representing 40,000 participants, with waiting lists for prime locations. Of those adoptions, 3,950 are litter removal groups, which clean litter from approximately 7,850 miles of highway, more than half of the State's highway system. Seventy-five percent of the groups are volunteers and 25% are sponsors who hire contractors to perform the work.

In 2002, Adopt-A-Highway program participants picked up nearly 250,000 bags of trash from California's roadsides. This effort results in 14.5 million savings to California taxpayers each year. In addition to the aesthetic benefits of cleaner and more beautiful roadsides, participants help to prevent potential pollutants from entering our waterways. For more information on the Adopt-A-Highway program call Saedra Nodland at 225-3400.

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**NOTE:** An electronic version of this news release and clipart are available on the internet at the following web address: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news\\_releases.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm)

